



**Chris Butler MfA  
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at  
North Barnes Lane,  
Plumpton Green,  
East Sussex**

Project No. CBAS0434

by  
Dr Caroline Russell

November 2013

## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green, East Sussex in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the development. Seven evaluation trenches were opened to reveal topsoil overlying the natural Weald Clay. No archaeological features were exposed and other than the late Post Medieval material, the only finds of archaeological interest comprised a Mesolithic flint bladelet, a probable Neolithic flint flake and two residual sherds of Roman pottery. The paucity of artefacts may imply that the site was never under extensive use, having only perhaps served as farmland to the present day. The evaluation excavation supported the cartographic evidence and the results of the geophysical survey in further demonstrating that the clay pit of the adjacent 19<sup>th</sup> century brick works did not extend into the site.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by Westridge Construction Ltd (The Client) to carry out an archaeological evaluation as a condition of planning consent associated with the erection of 14 x 1, 2 and 3 bedroom local needs houses, together with associated parking and landscaping, on land to the east of the telephone exchange, North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green, East Sussex (LW/13/0168) (Fig. 5).
- 1.2** As a result of the site's location and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority requested that an appropriate programme of archaeological work be undertaken as a condition of the planning consent for the development.
- 1.3** The site is centred on TQ 3653 1645 (Fig. 1), on the north side of North Barnes Lane, which runs east off Station Road in Plumpton Green village. The site is located at around 38m OD on a south facing gradual slope and is currently an open field.
- 1.4** The site is not situated within an Archaeological Notification Area or Conservation Area. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments nearby and eight Listed Buildings stand within a 1km radius of the site.
- 1.5** According to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319/334), the geology of the site comprises Weald Clay, with Head Deposit to the south.
- 1.6** The appropriate programme of archaeological fieldwork comprised:
1. A magnetometry geophysical survey; and
  2. A targeted evaluation excavation requiring the excavation of seven trenches.

A written scheme of investigation was prepared to cover these phases of work<sup>1</sup>. The results of the geophysical survey<sup>2</sup> suggest that there are no obvious archaeological features present within the survey area. The clay pit of the adjacent brickworks did not extend into the survey area. However, the survey does not confirm the absence of archaeological features at the site, as the survey is unlikely to have picked up discrete features and some types of archaeological feature cannot be detected through magnetometry.

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<sup>1</sup> Butler, C. 2013. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation at North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green, East Sussex. CBAS0434.

<sup>2</sup> Butler, C. & Staveley, D. 2013. A Geophysical Survey at North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green, East Sussex. CBAS0434.

**1.7** Dr Caroline Russell (Field Officer) and Andrew Bradshaw (Archaeological Assistant) undertook the evaluation excavation on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013.

## 2.0 Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 2)

- 2.1 Although there have been scattered finds of Mesolithic flintwork to the south of Plumpton Green, the earliest finds close to the site date from the Neolithic and Bronze Age. A Neolithic axe roughout (MES1327) was found to the east of the site, whilst Neolithic and Bronze Age flintwork was found at the tennis courts on the east side of the recreation ground to the south of the site.
- 2.2 Although there are no Roman sites within the immediate vicinity of the site, the Roman Road the Greensand Way passes to the south of the racecourse, and a Roman villa is situated a little further south at Plumpton Agricultural College.
- 2.3 In Saxon times, the manor of Plumpton belonged to the church of Bosham and was held off Earl Godwin by Godwin the priest for 32 hides. After the Conquest the manor was given with the rest of the Rape of Lewes to William de Warenne, and was held off him by Hugh son of Rannulf for 30 hides<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.4 During the medieval period, the village of Plumpton was probably centred on the Parish Church of St Michael and the area around Plumpton Green was agricultural land with scattered farms such as Riddens Farm (MES17140) and Rylands Farm (MES20241). Occasional finds of medieval pottery have also been made (MES7758).
- 2.5 This settlement pattern continued into the Post Medieval period, with a large number of farms recorded. These include 16<sup>th</sup> century Lentridge Farm (MES19557), 17<sup>th</sup> century Shergolds Farm (MES19559) and 17<sup>th</sup> century Knowlands Farm, whilst Riddens Farm (MES1885) and Rylands Farm (MES7147) continued. Homewoodgate Farm (MES17147) is also of Post Medieval date and produced artefacts of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date during a watching brief (MES22478).
- 2.6 The railway arrived at Plumpton in 1847 and a small station (MES1880) was probably built to service the numerous brickworks that existed to the north along Station Road. Six brickworks were operating by the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map (Fig. 3) in 1873 (MES19547, MES19548, MES19550, MES19551, MES19553 and MES19554) with another was operating in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (MES19556)<sup>4</sup>.
- 2.7 A brickworks (MES19547) was situated just to the northwest of the site, to the north of the Sun Inn. This may have operated prior to 1873 but Harry Stevens was advertising between 1874 and 1882, whilst the yard foreman also advertised in 1878 and 1890<sup>5</sup>. He

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<sup>3</sup> 'Parishes: Plumpton', A History of the County of Sussex: Volume 7: The rape of Lewes (1940), pp. 109-113.  
URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=56930> Date accessed: 22 October 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Beswick, M. 2001. *Brickmaking in Sussex*. Middleton Press.

<sup>5</sup> Beswick, M. 2001. *Brickmaking in Sussex*. Middleton Press.

was employing two men and two boys in 1881. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map (Fig. 4) referred to it as the Old Clay Pit, suggesting that it had gone out of use by 1897. Although the clay pit had extended further east, it does not appear to have reached as far as the site itself.

- 2.8** In 1876 the racecourse (MES20245) opened to the south of the railway line. It was initially used for hare coursing, with horse racing having been introduced in 1884. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map shows a number of houses now along Station Road. This number increased by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition OS map of 1910 and remained broadly unchanged through to the 1957 OS map, although some development had by then extended along North Barnes Lane. The school had yet to be built.

### **3.0 Methodology**

- 3.1** The evaluation excavation involved the excavation of seven trenches (Trenches 1-7), each measuring 20m by 1.8m as proposed. All trenches were opened in their approximate pre-determined location (Fig. 6).
- 3.2** The machine employed for the excavation was a tracked 8 tonne excavator (a Kubota KX080-4), fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Every trench was CAT scanned prior to excavation. All spoil was piled next to each opening and visually searched for finds.
- 3.3** The trenches were surveyed with the use of a total station. The survey point of Total Station 1 (TS1) was established in the southeast corner of the site at TQ 36532 16436. As it was not tied into the nearest OS bench mark, it has been given a relative Site Datum (SD) of 50m. The levels register is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.4** All archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not with the use of a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5** A digital photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate. It will form part of the site archive, presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd. A site reference of NBL13 has been allocated.



## 4.0 Results

- 4.0.1 The stratigraphy in each trench comprised a topsoil overlying the natural deposit.
- 4.0.2 The topsoil was a friable dark grey brown silty clay with chalk flecks under  $c.5\text{mm}^3$  (<1%) and sub-rounded flints and more angular stones mostly under  $c.20\text{mm}^3$  but up to  $100\text{mm} \times 70\text{mm} \times 40\text{mm}$  (<1%). In many places, the topsoil was a dark reddish brown directly below the grass turf whilst it became firmer and greyer and more clay in composition towards the natural deposit. These differences did not, however, constitute a distinctive topsoil and subsoil.
- 4.0.3 The natural deposit was a firm mid yellow brown Weald Clay, very occasionally mottled with small patches of mid red brown or pink brown clay. It comprised the occasional darker seam of angular and sub-angular sandstone (3-25%), which measured 5.6m wide maximum in Trench 7 and approximately 3m wide maximum in Trench 4 but was considerably narrower elsewhere. The sandstone of the seam in Trench 4 was predominantly gravel but that in other seams, and the odd individual sandstone in the natural (<1%), measured from several  $10\text{mm}^3$  up to  $320\text{mm} \times 170\text{mm} \times 50\text{mm}$ . The sandstone was often white in colour, giving the appearance of chalk. The natural deposit also included flint nodules up to  $100\text{mm} \times 50\text{mm} \times 50\text{mm}$  (<1%). It often contained ill-defined patches of dark grey clay with frequent fine roots, and of variable size, likely to represent disturbance.

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Plate 1)

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a depth of 270mm - 340mm. The topsoil (Context **1/001**) was 220mm - 280mm thick and the natural deposit (Context **1/002**) was cut into by up to 60mm.
- 4.1.2 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits. A fragment of concrete, 300mm x 240mm x 50mm, was seen in the spoil heap.

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Plate 2)

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was excavated to a depth of 310mm - 320mm. The topsoil (Context **2/001**) was 240mm - 270mm thick and the natural deposit (Context **2/002**) was cut into by up to 70mm.
- 4.2.2 Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or deposits. A possible plough mark ran west-east, approximately 400mm from the north end of the trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north

#### **4.3 Trench 3** (Plate 3)

4.3.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a depth of 250mm - 370mm. The topsoil (Context **3/001**) was 220mm - 310mm thick and the natural deposit (Context **3/002**) was cut into by up to 80mm.

4.3.2 Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Tree roots, c.20mm in diameter and up to 150mm long, were observed approximately half way along the trench.

#### **4.4 Trench 4** (Plate 4)

4.4.1 Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of 210mm - 350mm. The topsoil (Context **4/001**) was 190mm - 250mm thick and the natural deposit (Context **4/002**) was cut into by up to 130mm.

4.4.2 Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

#### **4.5 Trench 5** (Plate 5)

4.5.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a depth of 270mm - 390mm. The topsoil (Context **5/001**) was 240mm - 270mm thick and the natural deposit (Context **5/002**) was cut into by up to 130mm.

4.5.2 Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or deposits. A short stretch of land drain ran northeast from the southwest baulk, around 6.5m from the southeast end of the trench.

#### **4.6 Trench 6** (Plate 6)

4.6.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a depth of 280mm - 310mm. The topsoil (Context **6/001**) was 190mm - 250mm thick and the natural deposit (Context **6/002**) was cut into by up to 100mm.

4.6.2 Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or deposits.



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking northeast



Plate 4: Trench 4, looking west



Plate 5: Trench 5, looking southeast



Plate 6: Trench 6, looking north

#### 4.7 *Trench 7* (Plates 7 and 8)

- 4.7.1 Trench 7 was excavated to a depth of 280mm - 500mm. The topsoil (Context **7/001**) was 210mm - 240mm thick and in the east-southeast half of the trench overlay a firm mid grey brown silty clay (Context **7/002**), 100mm thick maximum and approximately 5.6m long. This layer was interpreted as a possible mixed horizon of topsoil and natural (Context **7/004**) and rested above a shallow layer of sandstone (Context **7/003**), of similar dimensions, which was traced in the south-southwest baulk of the trench for just 0.7m. Although not interpreted as such on site, this sandstone layer was possibly a natural seam with the occasional red brick pressed into it. The natural clay was cut into by up to 170mm.
- 4.7.2 Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or deposits. Part of a land drain was seen to run north-northwest to south-southeast 7m from the east-southeast end of the trench, whilst a shorter section of land drain was observed running in the same direction 7m from the opposite end of the trench.



Plate 7: Trench 7, looking west-northwest



Plate 8: South-southwest facing section of Trench 7, showing extent of sandstone layer (Context **7/003**)

## 5. The Finds

**5.0.1** A moderately sized assemblage of material was recovered during the evaluation, and is summarised in Table 1 below.

**5.0.2** The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis. The two Roman sherds are unstratified, of common types and from an area that has produced much larger stratified assemblages. The late post-medieval assemblage is also unstratified and of common types. The assemblage has been discarded.

Table 1. Quantification of the Finds

Context	Pottery (by period)	Ceramic Building Material	Glass	Shell/bone	Other	Comments
1/001	RB (43-410): 2/28g 1750-1900+: 23/233g	Brick 2/110g Peg tile 2/102g Drain 1/30g	2/11g	Shell 2/3g	Clay pipe 1/2g Mortar 1/428g Stone 8/56g Flint 1/10g	c. 1890-1940 (resid RB)
2/001	1750-1900+: 22/290g	Peg tile 1/30g	2/38g	Shell 2/6g	Stone 7/94g	c. 1890-1940
3/001	1750-1900+: 16/86g	-	7/118g	Shell 1/7g	Stone 3/12g Flint 1/4g Metal 1/6g	c. 1850-1925
4/001	1750-1900+: 8/60g	Peg tile 1/96g	1/5g	Shell 2/4g	Stone 2/16g	c. 1890-1940
5/001	1750-1900+: 9/126g	Brick 1/36g Peg tile 1/60g	1/13g	-	Clinker 1/50g Stone 1/28g	c. 1890-1940
6/001	1750-1900+: 29/234g	Brick 3/40g Peg tile 2/54g	7/79g	Shell 2/7g	Clay pipe 1/2g Stone 2/46g 1/248g	c. 1890-1940
7/001	1750-1900+: 5/76g	Brick 1/2970g Peg tile 1/40g	4/110g	Bone 1/440g	Clay pipe 1/2g Stone 1/16g	c. 1890-1940

Number of artefacts/weight (grams)

### 5.1 Pottery by Luke Barber

**5.1.1** The archaeological work recovered a moderate-sized assemblage of pottery all of which was derived from topsoil deposits in one of the seven trenches. No stratified deposits containing pottery were located at the site and as such the material can best be viewed as manuring scatter. The assemblage has been listed by fabric for the archive with a brief overview being given here.

**5.1.2** By far the earliest pot from the site was recovered from Context **1/001**. This produced a slightly abraded oxidised bodysherd and a simple everted rim from a reduced narrow-mouthed jar in grog-tempered East Sussex Ware. The jar is of early form indicative of a 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century date and is not particularly abraded. It would appear this material has not been subjected to extensive reworking.



- 5.1.3** The remainder of the pottery is of the late post-medieval period. Although a few sherds are of the early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (eg a small chip from a pearlware plate from Context **1/001** with late blue shell-edged decoration) the quantities are negligible suggesting these vessels may have actually been discarded much later. Certainly the vast majority of the assemblage can comfortably be placed between c. 1890 and 1940. This pottery is fairly fragmented with moderate signs of abrasion and has obviously been reworked during cultivation.
- 5.1.4** A fairly typical range of domestic wares is represented in the combined group. The coarseware sherds include low quantities of unglazed earthenwares (flowerpots), glazed red earthenwares (jars, bowls and dishes), English stoneware (bottles, including a large tan-topped spirit bottle from Context **2/001**, yellow ware (bowls) and a single 62g sherd from a Sunderland slipware bowl (Context **5/001**).
- 5.1.5** The associated finewares are dominated by small sherds of transfer-printed ware in various colours (mainly table and tea wares with willow pattern, floral or patterned designs), a little English porcelain (mainly plate, cup and saucer fragments) and a notable quantity of refined whiteware. The latter sherds, from plates, bowls and cups, frequently have circumferential coloured rim lines or sponged/stencilled designs typical of the lower end of the market. A single 2g fragment of moulded white stoneware represents the only other ware of note, probably from a jug (Context **1/001**).
- 5.1.6** Overall there is nothing to suggest anything other than the manuring of the land with waste from one or more fairly lowly households. Whether the material relates to local activity or was brought in by rail from further afield is uncertain.

## **5.2** *The Ceramic Building Material* by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1** Only 16 pieces of ceramic building material were collected from the site. The whole assemblage can be placed in a late medieval date range, probably spanning the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 5.2.2** Two different brick fabrics are represented. The first is tempered with sparse fine sand with moderate iron oxide and marl pellets to 2mm (Contexts **1/001** and **6/001**). Only the paver fragment from Context **1/001** had a complete dimension of 51mm thickness. The other brick fabric is tempered with sparse fine sand, sparse iron oxides to 2mm and rare marl to 2mm (Context **5/001**) but no dimensions are present. Context **7/001** produced a complete brick (228 x 105 x 51-55mm: fabric unclear) of slightly crude finish but hard-fired with some vitrification to the surfaces. However, the presence of mortar clearly shows the brick to have been used in flooring, even though its upper face was not heavily worn.

**5.2.3** The peg tile is all well formed and fired and typically 11 to 12mm thick. The four different fabrics are all tempered with sparse fine sand with either common iron oxides to 1mm (with rare flint & marl) (Fabric T1); moderate/common iron oxides to 2mm only (T2); common/moderate marl pellets/streaks and sparse iron oxides (T3) or rare iron oxides to 0.5mm (T4). All are typical of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century types.

**5.2.4** The only other form is represented by a single piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century land drain from Context **1/001**.

### **5.3** *The Clay Tobacco Pipe* by Luke Barber

**5.3.1** The three pieces of clay pipe from the site can all be placed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The slightly abraded stem fragments from Contexts **6/001** and **7/001** are accompanied by a single bowl fragment from Context **1/001**. The latter has moulded decoration of a branch or vine.

### **5.4** *The Geological Material* by Luke Barber

**5.4.1** All of the stone from the site consists of coal or Welsh slate of 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The slate is from roofing, with the single exception of a fragment of school slate from Context **6/001**.

### **5.5** *The Glass* by Chris Butler

**5.5.1** Most of the glass found was bottle glass, and predominantly from dark green mineral water bottles or light green bottles. These included the base of a light green bottle from Context **3/001** with KB / 2132 embossed on the base, and a machine made neck/rim from Context **6/001**. All of these bottles appear to be either late 19<sup>th</sup> or earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

**5.5.2** Other bottle glass included pieces of blue glass, probably from medicine or poison bottles, and a clear glass base from Context **2/001** which may be from a bottle or tumbler. A single fragment of thick window glass was found in Context **5/001**.

### **5.6** *Prehistoric Flintwork* by Chris Butler

**5.6.1** Two pieces of prehistoric flintwork were found. The first was a Mesolithic bladelet from Context **3/001**, and the second was a soft hammer-struck flake with no platform preparation, and probably of Neolithic date, from Context **1/001**.

## **5.7 *Marine Shell and Animal Bone*** by Chris Butler

**5.7.1** A number of small fragments of marine shell were found in the topsoil, almost half being Oyster and others Scallop. The small size of this material suggests it is all the result of manuring.

**5.7.2** Two fragments of the same Cattle scapula were found in Context **7/001**.

## **5.8 *Other Finds*** by Luke Barber & Chris Butler

**5.8.1** Context **4/001** produced a 428g fragment of buff sandy cement with a fragmented clear glass pane impressed into it. A mid 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century date is likely for this piece. Context **5/001** contained a piece of clinker, waste from burning coal, that is also probably of similar date.

**5.8.2** Two iron fragments were found. The first was a small nail from Context **3/001**, and the second a large pin, probably from a piece of agricultural machinery, in Context **6/001**.

## **6.0 Discussion**

- 6.1** Seven evaluation trenches were opened to reveal topsoil overlying the natural Weald Clay. No archaeological features were exposed and other than the late Post Medieval material, the only finds of archaeological interest comprised a Mesolithic flint bladelet, a probable Neolithic flint and two residual sherds of Roman pottery. The Mesolithic flint is the first evidence for such early prehistoric activity close to the site. The paucity of artefacts may imply that the site was never under extensive use, having only perhaps served as farmland to the present day. This suggestion is supported by the interpretation of the pottery, glass and shell assemblages as representing a manuring scatter.
- 6.2** The evaluation excavation supported the cartographic evidence and the results of the geophysical survey in further demonstrating that the clay pit of the adjacent 19<sup>th</sup> century brick works did not extend into the site.
- 6.3** Groundwork for the proposed development will excavate through the relatively shallow overburden across the site and into the underlying natural deposit. However, as the evaluation has proven that there is little potential of the site containing archaeological remains, it is recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork be carried out at the site.

## **7.0 Acknowledgements**

- 7.1** I would like to thank Mr Paul Dyer-Wright of Westridge Construction Ltd for commissioning this archaeological evaluation. The project was monitored for ESCC by Greg Chuter, the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 7.2** The project was managed by Chris Butler. Luke Barber and Chris Butler reported on the finds. Andrew Bradshaw prepared the drawings for the report.

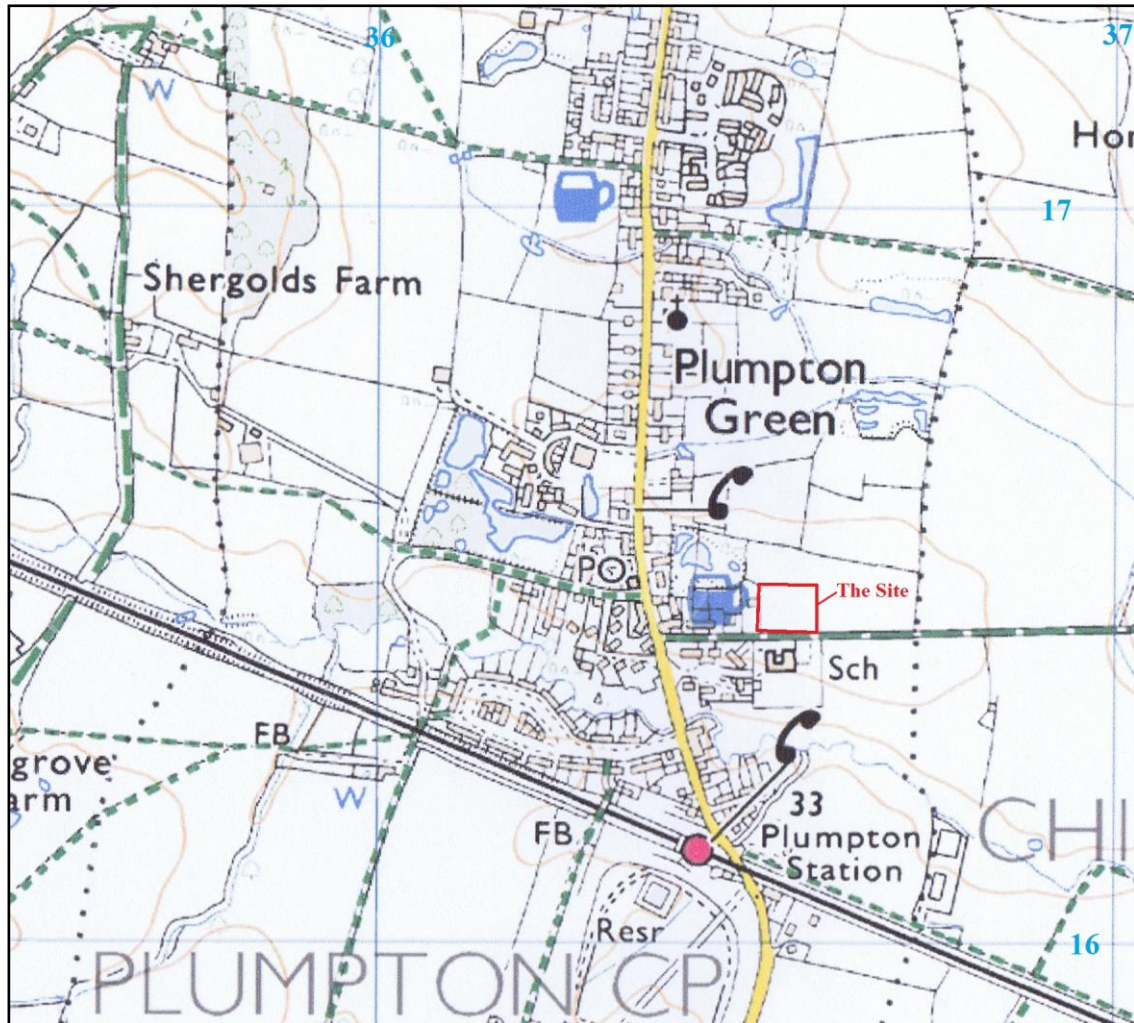


Fig. 1: North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green: Location of Site

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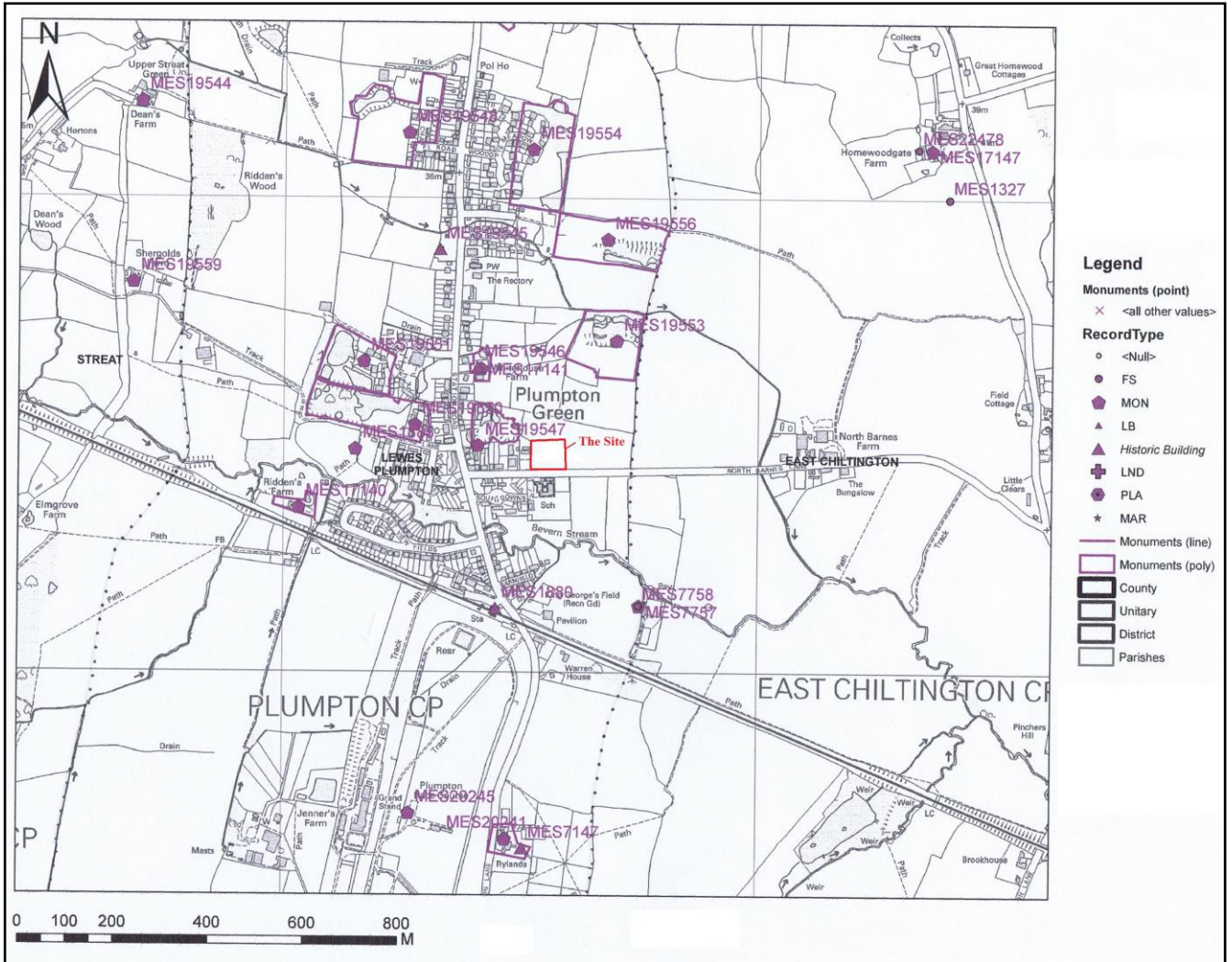


Fig. 2: North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green: Map showing sites on HER  
(Adapted from map provided by ESCC)  
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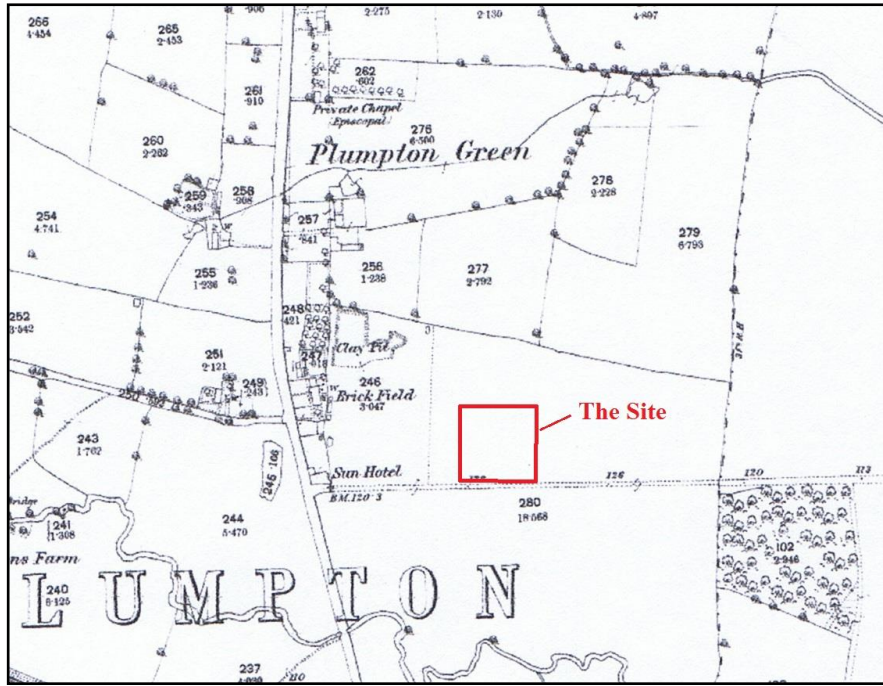


Fig. 3: North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map

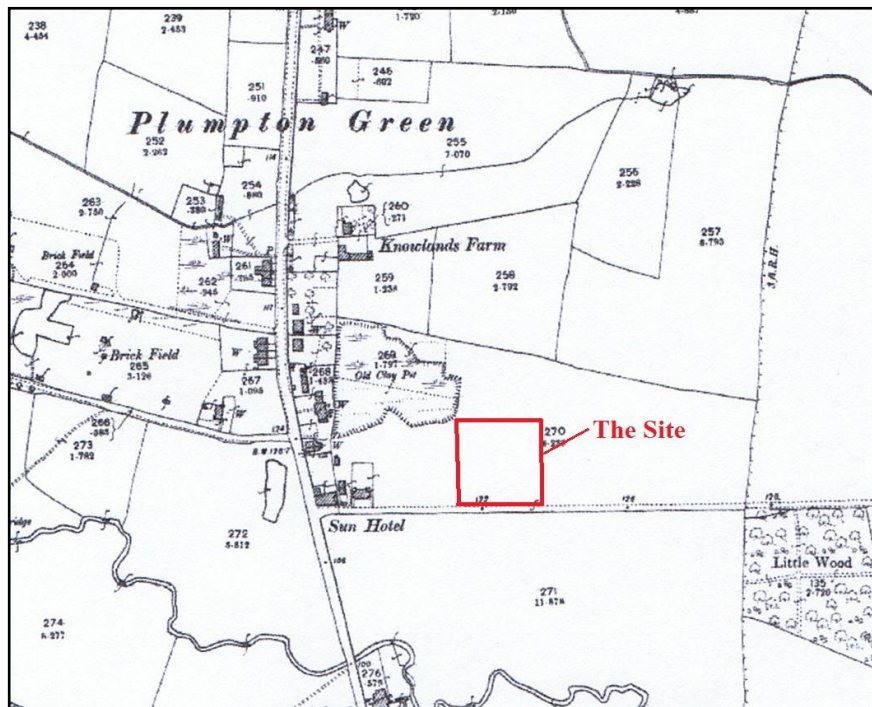


Fig. 4: North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS Map



Fig. 5: North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green: Site layout plan



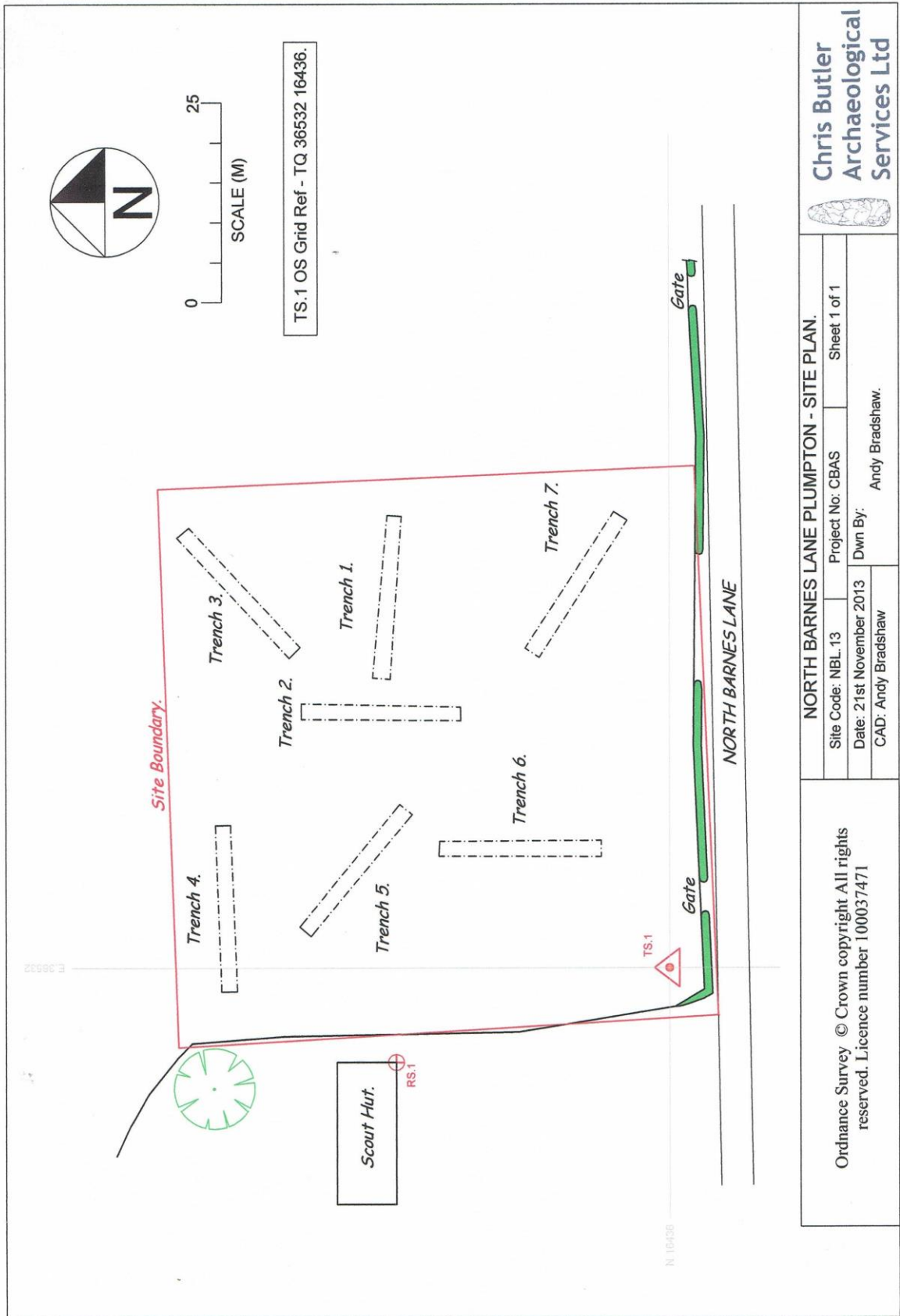


Fig. 6: North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green: Trench layout plan

## Appendix 1: Levels Register

Location		Level (m Site Datum)	
		Top	Bottom
Tr. 1	NE Corner	51.057	50.725
	SE Corner	51.055	50.699
	SW Corner	50.737	50.506
	NW Corner	50.755	50.514
Tr. 2	NE Corner	50.792	50.546
	NW Corner	50.830	50.574
	SW Corner	50.523	50.307
	SE Corner	50.580	50.299
Tr. 3	W Corner	50.810	50.489
	S Corner	50.796	50.553
	N Corner	50.738	50.537
	E Corner	50.782	50.607
Tr. 4	NE Corner	50.626	50.417
	SE Corner	50.663	50.505
	NW Corner	50.605	50.370
	SW Corner	50.642	50.371
Tr. 5	N Corner	50.634	50.398
	W Corner	50.665	50.408
	S Corner	50.607	50.347
	E Corner	50.693	50.346
Tr. 6	NE Corner	50.507	50.331
	NW Corner	50.490	50.279
	SW Corner	50.209	50.049
	SE Corner	50.211	50.044
Tr. 7	N Corner	50.556	50.325
	W Corner	50.511	50.319
	S Corner	50.604	50.269
	E Corner	50.707	50.339

Note: See Para. 3.3.

## Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

Site Code	NBL13					
Identification Name and Address	North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green, East Sussex					
County, District &/or	Lewes District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3653 1645					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <b>X</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <b>X</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2013	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Westridge Construction Ltd					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MifA					
Project Supervisor	Dr Caroline Russell					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso. <b>X</b>	Neo. <b>X</b>	BA	IA	RB <b>X</b>
	AS	MED	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at North Barnes Lane, Plumpton Green, East Sussex in order to establish the likely presence and importance of any archaeological remains that may be affected by the development. Seven evaluation trenches were opened to reveal topsoil overlying the natural Weald Clay. No archaeological features were exposed and other than the late Post Medieval material, the only finds of archaeological interest comprised a Mesolithic flint bladelet, a probable Neolithic flint flake and two residual sherds of Roman pottery. The paucity of artefacts may imply that the site was never under extensive use, having only perhaps served as farmland to the present day. The evaluation excavation supported the cartographic evidence and the results of the geophysical survey in further demonstrating that the clay pit of the adjacent 19<sup>th</sup> century brick works did not extend into the site.</i></p>						

## **Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd**

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6<sup>th</sup> Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006. He continues to run the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in his spare time.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

**Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd** is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Landscape and Woodland Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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